AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

establishing a database containing data ~~corresponding to a probability that~~ indicative of whether words occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in text, the predetermined range including from zero additional words to a number of additional words located between the words~~ in ~~the~~ text in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other, wherein establishing comprises:

searching documents for occurrences of the words in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other;

searching the documents for occurrences of the words individually; and

generating the data based on both searches of the documents;

receiving a phrase comprised of the words;

retrieving the data for the words from the database in response to receiving the phrase; and

determining, based on the data, whether to perform a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~establishing~~ the ~~database~~ data comprises[[:]] ~~searching through text from one or more documents; and determining~~ a metric indicative of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in the~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other in text of the ~~one or more~~ documents.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the metric is determined based on a probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and a probability that the words will occur individually.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and the probability that the words will occur individually.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~one or more~~ documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining comprises[[:]] comparing the data to a predetermined threshold; and the method further comprises:

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

performing the text search for the words individually if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, if it is determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole, the method further comprises:

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

11. (Original) The method of 10, further comprising:

performing the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, if it is determined to perform the text search for the words individually, the method further comprises:

performing the text search for the words individually.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

issuing a message, based on a result of the determining, asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole; and

performing the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the text search is performed in ~~one or more documents comprise~~ a past query log.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions that cause a machine to:

establish a database containing data ~~corresponding to a probability that~~ indicative of whether words occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in text, the predetermined range including from zero additional words to a number of additional words located between the words~~ in ~~the~~ text in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other, wherein establishing comprises:

searching documents for occurrences of the words in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other;

searching the documents for occurrences of the words individually; and

generating the data based on both searches of the documents;

receive a phrase comprised of the words;

retrieve the data for the words from the database in response to receiving the phrase; and

determine, based on the data, whether to perform a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 15, wherein ~~establishing~~ the ~~database~~ data comprises[[:]] ~~searching through text from one or more documents; and determining~~ a metric indicative of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in the~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other in text of the ~~one or more~~ documents.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the metric is determined based on a probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and a probability that the words will occur individually.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17, wherein the metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range~~

~~of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and the probability that the words will occur individually.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 16, wherein the ~~one or more~~ documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 15, wherein determining comprises[[:]] comparing the data to a predetermined threshold; and the computer program further comprises instructions to:

~~performing~~ perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

~~performing~~ perform the text search for the words individually if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

21. (Original) The computer program of claim 20, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

22. (Original) The computer program of claim 21, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

23. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

24. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, further comprising:

instructions to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if it is determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole.

25. (Original) The computer program of 24, further comprising:

instructions to perform the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

26. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, further comprising instructions to perform the text search for the words individually if it is determined to perform the text search for the words individually.

27. (Original) The computer program of claim 15, further comprising instructions to:

issue a message, based on a result of the determining, asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole; and

perform the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 15, wherein the text search is performed in ~~one or more documents comprise~~ a past query log.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

establish a database containing data ~~corresponding to a probability that~~ indicative of whether words occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in text, the predetermined range including from zero additional words to a number of additional words located between the words~~ in ~~the~~ text in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other, wherein establishing comprises:

searching documents for occurrences of the words in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other;

searching the documents for occurrences of the words individually; and

generating the data based on both searches of the documents;

receive a phrase comprised of the words;

retrieve the data for the words from the database in response to receiving the phrase; and

determine, based on the data, whether to perform a text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein ~~establishing~~ the ~~database~~ data comprises[[:]] ~~searching through text from one or more documents; and~~

~~determining~~ a metric indicative of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another in the~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other in text of the ~~one or more~~ documents.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the metric is determined based on a probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and a probability that the words will occur individually.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the metric comprises a ratio of the probability that the words ~~will~~ occur ~~within a predetermined range of one another~~ in series, adjacent, or within a number of additional words of each other and the probability that the words will occur individually.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the ~~one or more~~ documents comprise World Wide Web pages.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein determining comprises[[:]] comparing the data to a predetermined threshold; and the processor executes instructions to:

~~performing~~ perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if the data exceeds the predetermined threshold; and

~~performing~~ perform the text search for the words individually if the data does not exceed the predetermined threshold.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the text search is performed on another database.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the other database comprises Web databases on the Internet.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the words comprise two or more words in series.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole if it is determined to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole.

39. (Original) The apparatus of 38, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the words individually after performing the text search for the phrase as a whole.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instruction to perform the text search for the words individually if it is determined to perform the text search for the words individually.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processor executes instructions to:

issue a message, based on a result of the determining, asking whether to perform the text search for the phrase as a whole; and

perform the text search for the phrase as a whole or for the words individually based on a response to the message.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the text search is performed in ~~one or more documents comprise~~ a past query log..